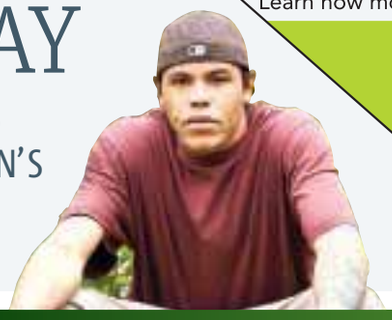
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 12
SHOPPERS DRUG MART

HIP-HOP HOORAY

LONDON'S COOLEST RAP CAT, NIC LATELLA, HEADLINES A JAMMED LINEUP AT BRENNAN'S BISTRO ON SATURDAY NIGHT PAGE 10



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Mounties charge Fontana

Mayor Joe Fontana has scheduled a news conference for Thursday at 1 p.m. at his lawyer's office. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Misspending allegations. Mayor facing three criminal charges after month-long probe

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Mayor Joe Fontana is slated to make his first public appearance on Thursday since being slapped with criminal charges alleging he misused taxpayers' money in his days as an MP.

A news conference is scheduled for 1 p.m. at London lawyer Gordon Cudmore's office. Fontana is expected to address the charges — announced on Wednesday — and his future as the city's top politician.

Denise Brown
METRO

For at least one colleague, any question about what Fontana should do has been cemented. "He has no options, in my opinion, but to step down," Coun. Denise Brown, one of Fontana's allies in previous calls for his resignation, said in an email. "Needless to say, (I'm) awfully disappointed as he told me as late as this week that it would be cleared up."

Mounties laid charges, including fraud and breach of trust, on Tuesday, Sgt. Richard Rollings said. Fontana "voluntarily attended the (RCMP) detachment" on Wednesday and was released pending a Jan. 8 court appearance, Rollings said.

The House of Commons asked for an investigation on Oct. 19, after media reports that Fontana, 62, used federal-government cheques to cover costs arising from his son's 2005 wedding reception. One of the cheques was for $1,700, the "value of the alleged fraud" in charges laid, Rollings said.

"At this time, there's no evidence to suggest or support that other government funding was (used as payment) for Joseph Fontana's personal expenses," Rollings said when asked about another alleged cheque for a little less than $20,000.

Fontana's city hall staff said he wasn't in the office on Wednesday afternoon, and his executive assistant did not respond to a question from Metro.

Late Monday, Fontana posted a statement on his website reaffirming his plans to stay in office despite continued calls that he take a leave of absence.

Paul Hubert
METRO

Coun. Paul Hubert is among those who have repeatedly said the only way to restore "integrity" in the mayor's office and council is for Fontana to step aside. He called Wednesday a "distressing day" for London.

"Now, the job of council is to work together to move the city forward" and "rebuild the city's trust," he said. "I think Joe can help us with that by recusing himself until such time as the charges are dealt with."

FOR MORE ON THE STORY, INCLUDING LOCAL REACTION, SEE PAGE 2.

RCMP investigation

The charges against Mayor Joe Fontana:

- Breach of trust by a public officer;
- Fraud under $5,000;
- Uttering forged documents.

Loving London

A video created by the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership hopes to lure more newcomers to the Forest City PAGE 3

Will Gaza ceasefire last?

That was the question after Israel and Hamas agreed to stop the fighting PAGE 5

Grinch steals $2M in toys

Police are investigating a massive theft of toys from a Toronto Salvation Army warehouse PAGE 6

O Christmas tree ornament

Your glamorous sheen delights us, and punches up our holiday decor PAGE 16

NEWS 1

Political career

Fontana time

Here's a look at some of the events of Joe Fontana's political career:

1976 – Joe Fontana first runs for London city council and loses.
1978 – Fontana runs again for city council and is elected. He also runs for the Liberal nomination for the federal riding of the London-Middlesex electoral district, but loses.
1988 – After 10 years on city council, Fontana makes the jump to federal politics. Fontana is elected to the House of Commons as a member of the opposition and serves as critic for Urban Affairs and Housing.
1993 – Fontana becomes parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Transport.
2004 to 2006 – Fontana serves as Liberal MP for London North Centre, and as the Minister of Labour in Paul Martin's minority government.
June 4, 2005 – Fontana's son, Michael, has a wedding reception at the Marconi Club in London.
2006 – Joe Fontana resigns his seat in the House of Commons to run for London mayor. Fontana looses to Anne Marie DeCicco-Best.
2010 – Fontana runs for London mayor again, proposing a citywide tax freeze. Fontana wins the election by 2,537 votes over second place DeCicco-Best. Fontana becomes the 61st mayor in London's history.
October 2012 – RCMP are contacted by the House of Commons in regards to an alleged inappropriate use of funds by Fontana while he was serving as a Member of Parliament in 2005. The allegations are that he paid for his son's wedding with public money.
Nov. 21, 2012 – Fontana is charged by the RCMP with breach of trust by a public officer, fraud under $5,000, and uttering forged documents.
Jan. 8, 2013 – Fontana is scheduled to appear at the London provincial courthouse.

ANDREW SERCOMBE/FOR METRO

Then-mayoral candidate Joe Fontana reacts to election results during the municipal election in London in 2010. The mayor is facing fraud and other charges related to the alleged inappropriate use of funds when he was a federal cabinet minister and Liberal member of Parliament. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go Joe? Londoners weigh in

We asked Londoners via social media what Mayor Joe Fontana should do next, now that he faces three RCMP charges related to alleged misappropriation of public funds to pay for his son's wedding in 2005. Here's what you said:

Twitter

@RobbieRobb:
Now that he is facing charges I think he must step down until charges are resolved

@paulvt:
The same thing he should have done 34 days ago. Stand down.

@London_420:
He waited this long to see if he would be caught. Only option now is to fold in his tail and go home.

@knighter1990:
Step down

@neut99:
@knighter1990 agreed, can't perform when burdened by this

@Malicepie:
what ever happened to innocent until proven guilty? I'm not passing judgment either way...everything will come out in time.

@UWOCasty:
@Malicepie It's not about innocence, it's about a clear breach of ethics. The only question is if the law was broken.

@allydougall:
Step down.

@lfay_lorraine:
To call it a day and spend time with his family. He betrayed the Forest City more needs to be done in house

@misskfry:
I think it's time that our mayor takes the hint and steps down.

@marleneburt4:
He should step down as Mayor.

@ImpressionOne:
Awful to have a mayor who's charged; agree with public opinion that it looks so bad on #ldnont that he should step aside

@jeffpreston:
Run for Prime Minister!

@katexolawson:
SO HAPPY I COULD CRY .. ! the beginning of the new #ldnont starts NOW

@cableknitdragon:
Hopefully his next move involves a box of his belongings, a book on integrity for dummies and a walk out the door.

@OnComNatalie:
cuffs. #FontanasNextMove

Facebook

Katie Naus:
Probably should come out with the truth if he ever wants to have any sort of credibility in the future ever again.

Lincoln McCardle:
What his next move SHOULD be is the same one it should have been months ago. For the good of the community he claims to work in the best interest of .... he needs to step down, aside — any direction really. Just go somewhere

Michael Collins:
Step down

Brentington AuntieFascist:
I want to see investigations into no bid contracts the city offered to the two companies he is CEO of.

Scott Ross:
typical politician ...everyone of them are corrupt. The city of london has one of the highest levels of corruption....

Paul Nagy:
I think he should pay it back

Suzy Genereaux:
He should have to pay it back. However, he will pay it back with the hefty pension he will receive once he is asked to "retire"

Stay or go? It's up to the mayor himself, expert says

It will be up to Joe Fontana alone to decide if he's going to stay on as London's mayor.

Ontario's Municipal Act doesn't require that politicians facing criminal charges bow out of office, said Martin Horak, a political science professor at Western University.

There's also nothing on the city's books that addresses the issue — something some councillors are now looking to change.

The RCMP announced Wednesday that Fontana is facing charges including breach of trust and fraud under $5,000.

Martin Horak

Coun. Joni Baechler, speaking before the charges were announced, had said she planned to table a motion at a Monday committee meeting asking that Fontana take a leave of absence.

That motion is now likely to be accompanied by one asking that staff look into a new bylaw giving the city power to oust a politician charged with a crime, Coun. Paul Hubert said Thursday.

"I think that's something that's worth considering," Horak, the Western professor said.

It's understandable that municipalities — and the province — aren't prepared for situations like this, he said.

"I can't think of another case of a serving official in a major Ontario municipality being charged with a major offence," Horak said.

"It is a fairly unprecedented thing." ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Chances of jail time?

- If convicted of the charges laid Tuesday, Mayor Joe Fontana's not likely to see jail time, London lawyer Phillip Millar said.
- The most serious of the three charges he faces is breach of trust by a public officer, Millar said, predicting a fine and probation.
- The fraud charge alleges less than $5,000 was involved. Had the amount been over $5,000, the mayor would likely serve time in custody or under house arrest, Millar said.

'Way behind.' Housing strategy lagging as midway point nears: Official

The London Community Housing Strategy, released by the city in June 2010, is slowly creeping up to the halfway point of its tenure.

At its current pace, only about one-third of the housing promised in the report will be built by the strategy's Oct. 31, 2015 finishing point.

"We're way behind," said Abe Oudshoorn, an assistant professor of nursing at Western University who has lent a hand in the entire process. "The target in the plan is 1,200 (housing) units. Our fiscal strategy over the timeline of that plan, if nothing changes, is going to be 460 units."

Earlier this week, a number of stakeholders met at Lamplighter Inn on Wellington Road for a one-day conference aimed at reinvigorating the cause, while also celebrating a few successes over the past 29 months.

"We depend on other people to step up to the plate," Oudshoorn said. "The London Community Foundation is a great example of that."

The foundation is offering loans of up to $500,000 to public-housing builders. The program, according to its executive director, Martha Powell, is "designed to fill the gap between a builder securing a mortgage for a property and getting a shovel in the ground." JOHN MATISZ/METRO

In need

3,500

According to the foundation's 2012 Vital Signs report, 3,500 local families are in need of affordable housing. The average wait time for those families is 8.2 years.

Environment Canada. Fog days coming to an end

Dense fog was a distraction Wednesday morning. Many school buses in London and the surrounding area were delayed, and even some buses were cancelled.

Around noon Wednesday, the fog dissipated into the wind.

"The fog is not unusual for this time of year," said David Phillips of Environment Canada. "But we are seeing increased amounts of it because of the calm wind in London, around four kilometres an hour."

Environment Canada says more fog can be expected Thursday morning, but Thursday will likely be the last of this season's fog days — before the chill sets in.

"A storm front will move over London this weekend, and the wind will pick up," said Phillips. "Fog will give way to Friday showers and possible Sunday flurries with temperatures between three degrees and -2 C."

Environment Canada is predicting the temperature to be around the freezing mark this weekend, with the possibility of flurries throughout next week. ANDREW SERCOMBE/FOR METRO

The Renaissance (71 King St.) and Renaissance II (330 Ridout St.) condominiums are covered in fog Wednesday morning. ANDREW SERCOMBE/FOR METRO

Kelly McManus, co-chair of London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership, addresses a crowd of about 100 gathered inside Goodwill Industries on Horton Street for the unveiling of the London: A Newcomer's Story promotional video. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

London: A Newcomer's Story promotes city

Six stories. Video highlights crucial aspects of the city's stance on immigration

JOHN MATISZ
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London is, like most medium-to-large-sized cities in Canada, a multicultural hub. It's a place where people from around the globe settle when seeking change.

A promotional video unveiled Wednesday by the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP) highlights two crucial aspects of the city's stance on immigration. Elisabeth White, co-chair of the immigration partnership, says it acts not only as a recruitment tool to reel in new immigrants, but also as an eye-opening experience for non-immigrant residents.

"I think it's both," she said. "We, as a community, want to be telling the story of our immigrants, and it's also consistent with (the mandate of attracting people to London)," she said.

The public asked for something resembling an inspiring video, and the partnership listened. "(When putting together) the LMLIP strategic plan, the community told us we need to increase awareness and understanding among and between communities," White said.

The video, London: A Newcomer's Story, is a seven-minute glimpse into the transition period to, as one participant notes, "the land of different people."

In it, you meet Hamid from Afghanistan, Claudia from El Salvador, Stanislav from Bosnia, Lal from Bhutan and Watta from Liberia. And finally, Ban Abood: a widowed mother of five who emigrated from Iraq.

All six have landed in the Forest City recently. All six have a different story to tell.

"I'm trying to change my career because it's hard to be a teacher here," said Abood, adding her credentials as a chemistry teacher in the Middle East have not transferred over to the Canadian system. "I'll try to seek different things."

Abood is training to be a fitness instructor, but a lack of experience in the field has thus far weeded her out of the hiring process. Despite this challenge, Abood, 42, remains positive about her future in the community and, more importantly, its treatment of immigrants.

"It's wonderful to be in London," she said. "People are so friendly. I try to connect with people. Even if I haven't accomplished anything yet, what my kids are doing is amazing."

LMLIP is co-led by the local United Way chapter and the City of London.

London immigrants

- **Currently,** about 20 per cent of Londoners are considered immigrants.*
- **From 2001-2006,** 22 per cent of Londoners were considered immigrants.
- **Top countries new Londoners emigrated from:** Columbia (2,205 people), China (1,440), India (585).
- **Top regions new Londoners emigrated from:** Asia (25 per cent), Middle East (20), South America (18).**

* *Source: Elisabeth White, co-chair of London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership*

** *Source: 2006 census*

Online

To see the video, London: A Newcomer's Story, go to metronews.ca

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Dogwalk. Rockin' dogs highlight Fanshawe College fashion show

For one night this week, the catwalk will belong to the pooches.

At Fanshawe College on Thursday, a fashion show named Hair of the Dog will feature a cast of modeling dogs.

To boot, the canine stars will be dressed in rock-inspired attire.

"The whole concept behind the show is showing off the effect the music industry has had on fashion," said Deb Trotechaud, a fashion merchandising professor at Fanshawe.

Michael Jackson, Madonna, David Bowie, and Lady Gaga — just to name a few — are artists who have inspired the show's funky wardrobe and distinct theme.

Hair of the Dog is being organized by about 30 of Trotechaud's fashion students.

Hair of the Dog

- **What:** Rock-inspired fashion show
- **Where:** Fanshawe College (Forwell Hall)
- **When:** Thursday night (Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m.)
- **How:** Tickets are $20. Call: 519-452-4227 or email: dtrotechaud@fanshawec.ca

All proceeds collected at the event will be directed to PAWS United Dog Rescue, which assisted in more than 100 local dog rescues and adoptions its first year of business.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Eco. Tories say they would kill fees for hazardous waste

The Progressive Conservatives say they have a better plan for recycling hazardous and electronic waste in Ontario.

They're proposing to get rid of Waste Diversion Ontario — which was created in legislation by the previous Tory government — as well as controversial eco fees on hazardous waste and electronics that are passed on to consumers.

WDO is an independent corporation which develops recycling programs in conjunction with industry-funded stewardship organizations. Producers and importers pay eco fees to these organizations to administer the programs, which are usually passed on to consumers either at the cash register or built into the ticket price.

But the programs for diverting hazardous and electronic waste are losing money and aren't working, Tory environment critic Michael Harris said Wednesday.

He's proposing to cancel the two programs and Ontario Electronic Stewardship, but keep the more successful blue box and tire recycling programs run by Stewardship Ontario.

Under the plan, the government would only set enforceable targets for diverting waste and monitor them, while allowing producers and importers to decide for themselves how to pay for recycling the products, he said.

This free-market model would release businesses from government interference, increase diversion rates and create jobs in the recycling sector, Harris added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minor injuries

Three-car crash leads to impaired driving charges

A three-vehicle collision in south London has led to multiple impaired driving-related charges against a St. Thomas man.

On Tuesday at around 7:45 p.m., a three-car crash occurred at Wellington Street and Commissioners Road. Damages were estimated at $10,000, and one driver suffered minor injuries. James Mercer, 35, has been charged.

METRO

Suspect on release

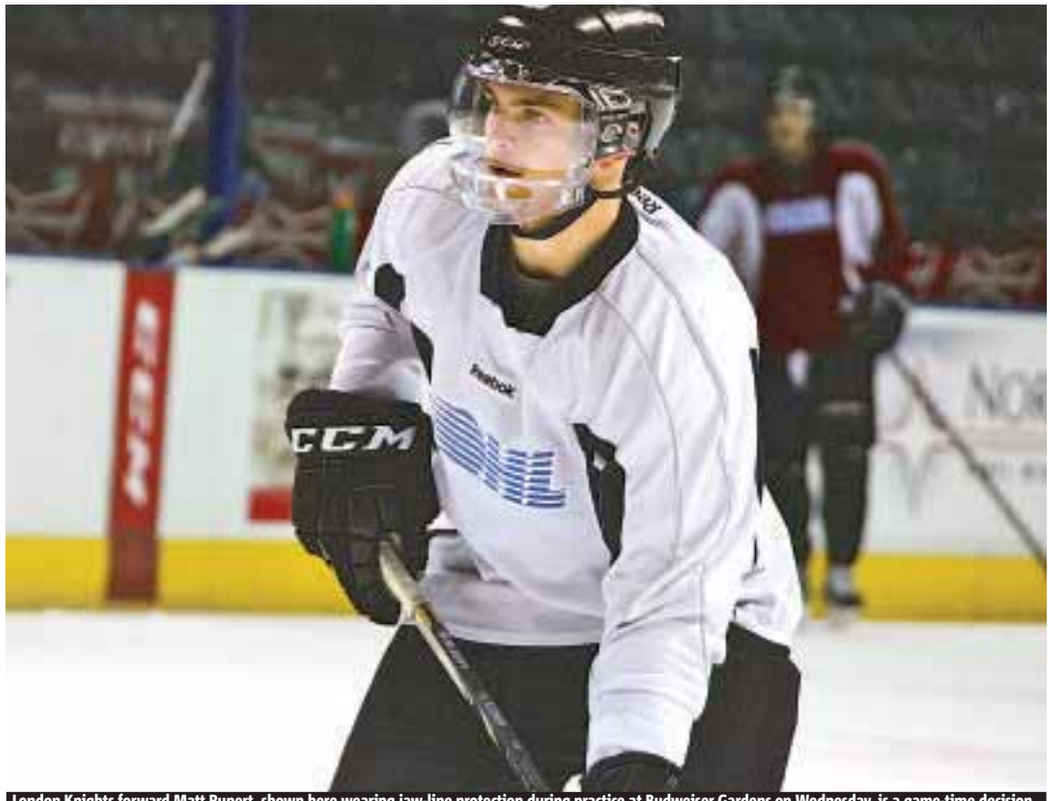
Drug-trafficking arrests downtown

London police's foot patrol unit has charged a man with drug trafficking on the corner of Richmond and Dundas streets.

Acting on a citizen's tip, police arrested a male suspect Tuesday around 1:58 p.m. The suspect, who was on release for marijuana and possession of stolen property charges, was found with three Hydromorph Contin pills and $220.

Alexander William, 23, of London has been charged with trafficking.

METRO



London Knights forward Matt Rupert, shown here wearing jaw-line protection during practice at Budweiser Gardens on Wednesday, is a game-time decision for Thursday's game against the Sarnia Sting. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

'They're sacrificing to win,' Hunter says

Knights. Coach praises team's veterans for strong work ethic

JOHN MATISZ
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Ask Dale Hunter what's been paramount to his team's success over the past 20 days, and he'll immediately point to the gutsy efforts employed by his core soldiers.

"At the end of the game there," said the head coach, referring to Sunday's 4-3 London Knights win over the Kitchener Rangers, "they have a six-on-four and Harri (Scott Harrington) blocked a shot, Hughesy (Tommy Hughes) blocked two, Seth (Griffith) slid, Bo (Horvat) slid."

"They're sacrificing to win."

The Knights have been channelling their inner Austin Watson as of late.

The Nashville Predators prospect captured 2012 Ontario Hockey League playoff MVP honours during London's Memorial Cup run.

Along the way, he earned a reputation as one of the most fearless shot blockers in franchise history.

Quoted

"I think it's one of those games we kind of get up for."

Sniper and assistant captain Seth Griffith
Speaking about Thursday's game against the Sarnia Sting.

That first-hand view of Watson's relentless killer instinct has evidently rubbed off on his old mates who, like Hunter says, have been earning each and every one of the Knights' current eight-game winning streak.

The streak has the Knights back in the CHL Top 10 after five weeks on the sidelines. London is eighth in the most recent poll of NHL scouts.

On Thursday, the troops battle the Sarnia Sting for the first time this season.

There, versus an excellent special-teams club, London will need another valiant effort.

Sniper and assistant captain Seth Griffith doesn't believe there should be any doubt the 16-5-0-2 Knights won't come out guns-a-blazin'.

"I think it's one of those games we kind of get up for," he said, adding playing against former Knights assistant coach Jacques Beaulieu, now the Sting's head coach and general manager, is always a treat.

Griffith, neck-and-neck with Niagara IceDogs forward Ryan Strome for the OHL's scoring crown after 23 games, did all right for himself in the 2011-12 version of the London-Sarnia rivalry.

The 19-year-old Canadian world junior team hopeful recorded four goals and seven points in six games, including a hat trick on Dec. 30. The Knights won four of those games.

However, they could be short another two Ruperts this time around.

Ryan, still shelved by a shoulder injury, is not ready to return to the lineup just yet. But, Hunter says his brother Matt, recovering from root canals, is a game-time decision.

"If he feels fine, we'll play him," Hunter said. "If not, we'll rest him another day."

Player update

Knights say goodbye to Restoule

Adam Restoule METRO FILE

The London Knights have parted ways with forward Adam Restoule.

The 19-year-old tough guy from Thunder Bay was not cracking the lineup often, and the team wanted to go younger.

Here's a look at his short stint in a Knights uniform:
Games: 9
Goals: 2
Assists: 1
Penalty Minutes: 11

METRO

It's a Gaza deal ... after 1,500 air strikes and 1,500 rocket attacks

The question. Can two bitter foes, Israel and Hamas, make the ceasefire hold?

Will it last?

That was the question being asked in Israel and Gaza on Wednesday as a ceasefire was forged after an incredible two days of intense shuttle diplomacy.

"I just hope they commit to peace," said Abdel-Nasser al-Tom, from northern Gaza.

Despite the fears, joy broke out like an explosion.

Cheering Gazans emerged from their homes after a week, flooding the streets in wild celebration.

Gunmen fired in the air, and chants of "God is Great" echoed from mosque loudspeakers.

Residents hugged and kissed in celebration, while others distributed candy and waved Hamas flags.

Israel and the Hamas militant group agreed to the ceasefire Wednesday after eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

They promised to halt air strikes and rocket attacks that have killed scores and to ease an Israeli blockade constricting the Gaza Strip.

The truce will "improve conditions for the people of Gaza and provide security for the people of Israel," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Cairo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morsi's moment

The ceasefire deal marks a startling trajectory for the mediator — Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi.

- **New role.** The man who refused to talk to the Israelis or even say the country's name finally turned himself into Israel's protector.

In this image taken from Egyptian state television, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shakes hands with Egypt's foreign minister, Mohammed Kamel Amr, in Cairo after a ceasefire was announced between Israel and Hamas. Clinton shuttled across the region to help end the fighting. EGYPTIAN STATE TELEVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baird speaks out

Hamas and Israel? It's not complex

There has been nothing complicated about the conflict between Israel and Hamas, says Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

John Baird

"It's not a complex issue," he said as a ceasefire was declared.

"You have a terrorist group launching rockets against Israel."

But the broader question of Mideast peace is far more complicated, he stressed, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Web war. Israel fighting back with the big guns: Twitter and Facebook

Israel is using social media to pre-empt a publicity pounding over its Gaza offensive.

It's furiously tweeting and posting Facebook updates from a "media bunker."

The instant they heard about a bus bombing in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, scores of tech-savvy youth in Israel's media command centre in Jerusalem sprang into action.

They began flooding social media with updates and created a graphic exclaiming: "We didn't send in our ground troops, but they sent in theirs!"

Hundreds of volunteers have produced and posted instant videos and graphics about the latest twists in the Gaza offensive from Israel's point of view.

Its Facebook site, Israel Under Fire, has gained more than 24,000 "likes" over the last week.

"They used to say the Elders of Zion controlled the media. Well, here are the youngsters of Zion who are running it," said Daniel Seaman, a chief at the Ministry of Public Diplomacy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel fought back via social media after this bus was bombed in Tel Aviv Wednesday. Twenty-seven people were hurt. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top leader steps in

Ahmadinejad grilling blocked

Iran's supreme leader has stopped the country's parliament from grilling the president over the nation's plummeting currency and economic crisis, the official IRNA news agency reports.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei demanded that parliament drop its plan to grill President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying such a session would benefit Iran's enemies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sex scandal fallout

Back at work ... under a cloud

Gen. John Allen, caught up in the David Petraeus sex scandal, has returned to Kabul to resume his duties as the top U.S. and NATO commander of the war in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon has said it's investigating potentially "inappropriate" correspondence between Allen and a woman linked to the former CIA chief. Petraeus, resigned from his CIA post after acknowledging an extramarital affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell.

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Alleged theft of 100,000 toys 'targeted': Sally Ann

Salvation Army. The charitable organization calls organized plot to steal toys over past two years 'troubling'

The Salvation Army believes 100,000 toys were stolen from its Toronto warehouse over the past two years in a "targeted," strategic plot to defraud the charity.

Police have been investigating the alleged theft, estimated to be worth about $2 million, since late September, but have not made any arrests.

The news comes as the Salvation Army is preparing to start its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign, where volunteers solicit donations in high-traffic areas like shopping malls and on the street.

About 140,000 toys are distributed to families in need each holiday season from the Toronto warehouse, but spokesman John Murray said at a news conference Wednesday that no one will go without.

"I can assure you that anyone in need this Christmas will be helped by the Salvation Army," he said.

"To those Canadians who routinely and generously give to the Salvation Army I would appeal to you this afternoon to not lose confidence in the work of the Salvation Army and the work that we do on your behalf in Canadian cities."

A whistleblower within the organization tipped the Salvation Army off a few months ago and internal auditors made the "troubling" discovery, Murray said.

Executive director David Rennie was then fired. No criminal charges have been laid.

Meanwhile, the executive director at the Salvation Army in Ottawa has been fired after auditors discovered $250,000 has gone missing. Perry Rowe had been with the charity's Booth Centre for eight years.

Police have not yet determined what happened to the toys at the Toronto warehouse. Murray said the Salvation Army believes no other locations have been hit with alleged thefts.

"This is an isolated situation," he said. "We believe that it's been very specific. It's been targeted. It's been very strategic in the way that it was put together. It was thought out."

The warehouse has video surveillance and security systems, but the Salvation Army has retained KPMG to do an audit to determine what other checks and balances can be put in place.

The security system is good, so the alleged theft signals that when there is a will, there is a way, Murray said.

"If an individual wants to defraud an organization there are ways and means to do that," he said.

The hearts of people at the Salvation Army go out to whoever committed the alleged theft, but if people have problems in their lives they should instead come to the organization for help, Murray said.

"I also would remind people that when you're stealing from an organization like the Salvation Army," he said. "You're stealing from those people who the Salvation Army helps every day and in Canada that's 1.8 million Canadians in 400 Canadian communities." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maj. John Murray of the Salvation Army attends a news conference at their Railside Road food and toy distribution centre in Toronto on Wednesday after discussing the alleged theft of several million dollars worth of items. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Driving. Are higher premiums for drivers 80+ fair?

Whether an insurance company can charge more for drivers over the age of 80 is the subject of a two-day human-rights hearing slated to start Thursday in a case that could affect thousands of Ontario seniors.

In his complaint, Denis Olorenshaw argues that setting higher premiums for drivers based on their plus-80 status amounts to age discrimination that can't be justified.

"They don't have the legal basis...for increasing a premium for an 80-year-old driver," Olorenshaw said in an interview Wednesday. "It's serious business."

Olorenshaw, 92, of Toronto, launched his complaint after he began shopping around for auto insurance in 2009.

Both he and his daughter had identical Toyotas purchased at the same time and lived in the same condominium. However, his daughter, then aged 62, was given a lower quote from the brokerage company Atrens-Counsel on behalf of Western Assurance. "There was a $250 difference in the premiums," Olorenshaw said. "I didn't buy it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tensions rise between feds, First Nations over bill

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, right, and Phyllis Sutherland of the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba discuss the First Nations Financial Transparency Act in Ottawa, Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal Conservatives are pushing through more First Nations legislation that does not have the support of chiefs, despite growing tension between Ottawa and native leaders.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said Wednesday his party is forcing a vote to shut down debate on a financial transparency bill that will require First Nations chiefs and councillors to publish their salaries and expenses.

The move means the bill will pass the House of Commons by the end of this week — over the objections of chiefs as well as the federal NDP and Liberals. Various forms of the bill have been around for three years, stalled by electoral cycles and opposition from the Assembly of First Nations.

"It's unfortunate that we have to take this measure," Duncan told a news conference. "Continued obstruction by the NDP and Liberals has made it clear that this is the only way this important bill will be passed."

Duncan said that while the chiefs' organization may not support the legislation, it is in keeping with resolutions passed by the AFN and is widely favoured by grassroots First Nations.

But it's only one of several pieces of legislation that the Conservatives have pushed aggressively through the Commons over the objections of the AFN, leading to deterioration in the relationship between Conservative and First Nations leaders.

"There has been a ... sense of frustration,'" AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper last month. "This is exacerbated by the federal government's broader legislative agenda."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Divisions

The relationship between the federal government and the First Nations is becoming increasingly acrimonious.

- **Friction.** NDP aboriginal affairs critic Jean Crowder said the talks won't get back on track until the federal government renounces the old ways of telling First Nations how things should be done.

Trial

Man's murder conviction nixed over jury vetting

A man accused of kidnapping and slitting a woman's throat has had his murder conviction quashed because prosecutors and police acted improperly when it came to jury selection at his trial.

In ordering a new hearing for Clare Spiers, Ontario's top court said Wednesday an examination of how potential jurors were vetted creates a "troubling picture" of damaging collusion between Crown and police that amounted to a miscarriage of justice.

"This picture is one of unfairness in the jury-selection process," the Ontario Court of Appeal said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military

Four years later, reservists still waiting for change

Four years after a landmark report raised the alarm about the care of reservists, the military ombudsman says citizen soldiers are still treated poorly. Pierre Daigle also concludes there remains a wide gulf between the cash settlements reserve members and those in the regular force receive when they lose a limb on duty in Canada.

Daigle released a report Wednesday that says out of the 12 recommendations made in 2008, only four have been fully implemented, another six were partially achieved and two have seen no action whatsoever.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benefits

Gov't should nix credits for kids, put towards low-income families instead: Coalition

Ottawa should eliminate some cash payments and child tax benefits and credits offered to Canadian parents and instead direct the money to the lowest-income families, an anti-poverty coalition said in a report released Wednesday. Campaign 2000 said the government should nix the child tax credit, the child fitness tax credit and the universal child care benefit and put the money towards the national children's benefit for families earning up to $42,700 a year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget watchdog takes Tories to court

Biting the hand that feeds. Budget officer taking on his creators over hidden figures

Canada's budget watchdog is taking the Harper government to court over its refusal to turn over information about austerity measures.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page on Wednesday filed a reference application with the Federal Court seeking a judgment affirming he has the jurisdiction to search for the information.

In a covering letter signed by Ottawa constitutional lawyer Joseph Magnet and Tolga Yalkin of the PBO, Page cites the "urgency" of resolving the issue quickly and proposes numerous dates for the hearing from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11.

The budget officer has complained for months that government departments have not been forthcoming with his requests on budget cuts, staff reductions and impacts on services.

In response, the government said Page is overreaching and that his mandate is to examine government spending, not government restraint.

Opposition leaders said Page had no choice but go to court to perform his duty and accused the Conservatives of carrying out a vendetta against the budget officer, a position they created.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obstruction?

"They've done everything to shut down Kevin Page since he started in that job."

NPDLeader Tom Mulcair
On the Conservative government.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page has filed an application with the Federal Court to ensure he can get access to information. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spills and shills

Liberal critic calls Cons lackeys for Big Oil, resigns

Ottawa MP David McGuinty abruptly resigned as the Liberal party's natural resources critic Wednesday after suggesting Conservative MPs from Alberta are shills for the oil industry and should go home.

His statements capped a day in which Liberals scrambled to contain the damage from his remarks, which came just days before a byelection in Calgary, where the Liberals have high hopes for an upset.

"I would like to unreservedly and unequivocally apologize for comments which I made with respect to parliamentary colleagues from the province of Alberta," said McGuinty, who is the brother of Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Conservatives, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pounced on McGuinty's comments, accusing the Liberals of longstanding bias against Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online privacy

Facebook mulls an end to brush with democracy

Facebook is proposing to end its practice of letting users vote on changes to its privacy policies.

The world's biggest social media company said in a blog post Wednesday that its voting mechanism, which is triggered only if enough people comment on proposed changes, has become a system that emphasizes quantity of responses over quality of discussion. Users tend to leave one- or two-word comments objecting to changes instead of more in-depth responses.

As part of the 2009 policy, users' votes only count if more than 30 per cent of all Facebook's active users partake. That did not happen during either of the two times users voted and it's unlikely that it will now, given that more than 300 million people would have to participate.

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Research in Motion

Another U.S. agency drops BlackBerrys

BlackBerry smartphones are being dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason.

The Washington-based board, the latest American government agency to turn away from the BlackBerry, said it needs reliable devices for its employees to investigate accidents, often in remote locations.

"These Apple devices will replace the NTSB's existing BlackBerry devices, which have been failing both at inopportune times and at an unacceptable rate," the board said in a recent document. Research In Motion has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dow Jones: 12,836.89 (+48.38)

Holiday shoppers not too keen on apps, survey finds

Retail. Mobile discount-hunting can give buyers an edge, but it's been slow to catch on in Canada

An Associated Press reporter demonstrates a shopping app on her phone in San Francisco. While there are a slew of smartphone apps that can help save time and money this holiday season, a new survey suggests most Canadians don't plan on using them. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smartphones can scan barcodes and offer real-time discounts but most Canadians won't bother using apps while shopping this holiday season, a new survey suggests.

About 70 per cent of those surveyed weren't planning to use a mobile application or feature to help buy gifts, according to the results of a poll commissioned by wireless carrier Mobilicity.

Smartphone apps can give users notifications of what discounts are being offered in a mall and at what stores, said Anthony Booth, Mobilicity's chief customer officer.

"The real astute users are the people who have figured out how to take advantage of things in real time by using their smartphone," Booth said from Toronto.

Black Friday, the day after U.S. Thanksgiving, has come to Canada and generally marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season. Apps such as TGI Black Friday and Black Friday Deals and Coupons allows smartphone users to search from thousands discounts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regulations.

Ahead of new rules, RBC drops most fees on prepaid cards

Canada's largest banking group has dropped expiry dates and most of the fees on its prepaid Visa cards in the wake of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announcing plans to introduce new rules for the cards.

RBC Royal Bank said Wednesday it will continue to charge a one-time flat fee of $3.95 to issue the prepaid card but all the money loaded will remain available to make purchases. Its prepaid cards will continue to show an expiry date but a new card can be requested at no charge if a balance remains after that date.

Flaherty said last month that the government believes it's not appropriate for consumers to lose money if a gift card expires after a period of time. He said the government wants better disclosure of the terms of conditions of prepaid credit cards.

Flaherty's press secretary, Kathleen Perchaluk, issued an email statement saying the government would continue a "pro-consumer agenda."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NHL COMMISSIONER GETS CANDID

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

What follows is an exclusive, in-good-faith, "marathon" interview with Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League.

While it's true the commissioner has been talking to other media throughout the NHL lockout, Mr. Bettman told me some exclusive things — things so striking and unexpected that he may deny ever having talked to me, or, indeed, having heard of me.

NHL insiders say that, using the logic of contract negations, his refusal to acknowledge my existence is a sign our talk went well.

He Says: Mr. Bettman, let's drop the gloves. What can the league do to win back fans after this lockout, which everybody outside of the players and owners believes was unnecessary and wrong?

Bettman: Well, we're very fortunate to have great fans in Canada that have nothing else to do in the winter that isn't illegal. As for Americans, they haven't noticed yet that we've been gone. So don't tell them, OK?

He Says: Don't you think this cavalier attitude will only reinforce Canadians' belief that you don't care about the fans, delivering a Raffi Torres-like check to the head to our national game?

Bettman: Well, first of all, I don't know what a Raffi Torres is, but let me say that I'm confident the fans will be back.

He Says: How can you be so sure?

Straight talk

"The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans."

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman
told He Says in an honest interview

Bettman: If you read news reports from after the last lockout, you see headlines like: "Hockey: Does anyone still care?" next to headlines like, "Maple Leafs' second-unit penalty kill needs tweaking or heads will roll."

He Says: I see your point. But the NHL game was, before The Lockout: Part 2, at the height of its popularity. The hockey was faster, the women behind the benches were hotter, and mentions in late-night comedy monologues were at an all-time low. How did you kill all that momentum?

Bettman: You have to understand that there's been a huge philosophical divide between each side.

He Says: I noticed that in the various proposals. The players said the repeating lockout was an example of Nietzsche's eternal recurrence, while you adhered to the deconstructionism of Jacques Derrida, refusing to make whole.

Bettman: We spent one meeting talking about whether contract negotiations really mean anything in a cold, uncaring universe. We found a lot of common ground there. But that's not what I meant. What I meant is that we have a different attitude than the players, because we don't care what people think of us.

He Says: That's refreshingly honest.

Bettman: The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans. But the management don't have to be heroes. No Canadian kid says, "I want to be an owner." Or commissioner. Keep it under your helmet, but I'm not very popular.

He Says: Your secret's safe with me. I want to thank you for your candour, Mr. Bettman. And remember, keep your stick on the ice.

Bettman: I'm sorry, what?

He Says: Uh, just forget it.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman sits down to talk with He Says regarding the lockout. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Choo-choo-chocolatey express

YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World record

Longest chocolate structure rolls into Brussels

Commuters take pictures of the world's longest chocolate structure as it is displayed at Brussels Midi train station on Wednesday.

The train, which took 784 hours of labour to create, measures 34.05 metres (111 feet) in total length and was prepared with 1,285 kilograms (2,832 lb.) of Belgian chocolate and was built by master chocolatier Andrew Farrugia from Malta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's as long as...

Let's see what else compares to the 111 feet of chocolatey heaven.

- **NBA basketball court.** An NBA basketball court is just a smidgen shorter than the train, measuring 94 feet long.
- **Baseball diamond.** The distance between each base in a baseball diamond is 90 feet.
- **The Mayflower.** The ship that transported English and Dutch Separatists to Massachusetts was 100-feet long, slightly shorter than the chocolatey train.

Culinary concoctions

It's a sweet time to be a world record holder. Here's some other culinary concoctions that have set world records recently.

- **Cream cake.** Chefs in Switzerland took the title for the longest cake ever — a whopping 1,200 metres (3,937 feet) of sugar, flour and cream in November 2012. That's more than a kilometre of cake!
- **Chocolate bar.** The longest chocolate bar was measured at 15.9 metres (52 feet) long and 2.03 metres (6.7 feet) wide in Bologna, Italy in 2011.

Calorie counting

6.5M

The model train packs an impressive 6.5 million calories. But, the train isn't the largest chocolate structure in the world. That title goes to a California bakery that built a massive Mayan temple out of the dark sweet that weights three times as much as the train.

Metropolitan Panel

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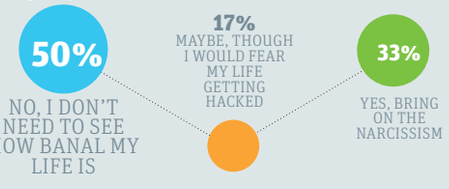
50%
NO, I DON'T NEED TO SEE HOW BANAL MY LIFE IS
17%
MAYBE, THOUGH I WOULD FEAR MY LIFE GETTING HACKED
33%
YES, BRING ON THE NARCISSISM

Twitter

@janetthebookfan:
New "rule". Do not burp while drinking hot tea. Owwww

@paisley_girl73:
I think the @UnLab should build a robotic arm for ppl to remotely decorate a Christmas tree for charity :) #stealagoodidea

@AlexnotAlecs:
If there was ever a more perfect day for a zombie apocalypse, I've yet to see it. #LDNont. #zombief-og

@BrknBones:
Foggy as Hell in #LdnOnt Today. Off to take Photos in the Woods with the Mutt | #Spooky #Eerie #NatureWalk

@megfrench_:
And once again I'm made late for class by the #ltc #LdnOnt #cityo-funreliability

@rouquinne:
Woo Hoo! Horton Street is completely OPEN!!! :-) #LdnOnt

metro

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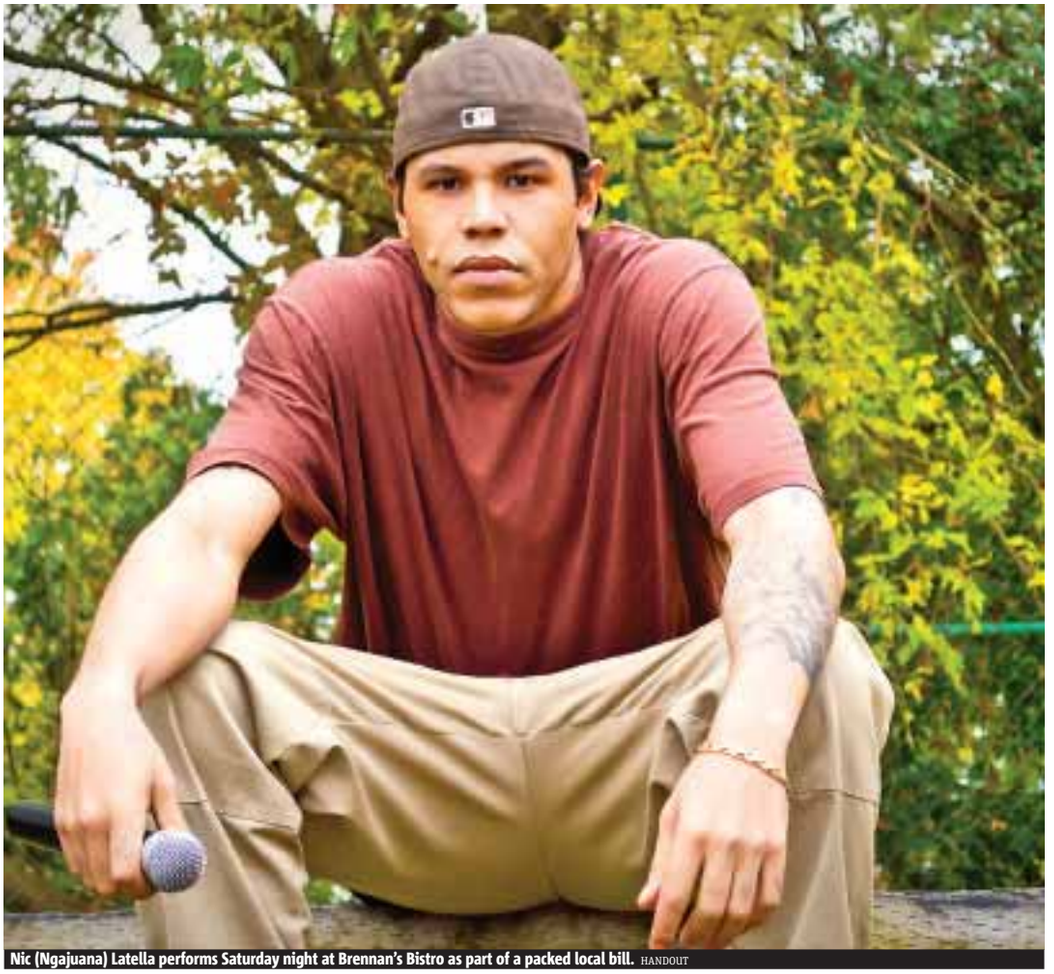
SCENE 2

Nic on time with his rhyme

Autumn tour. London rapper's trademark is 'blunt honesty'

BACKSTAGE PASS
Amanda Grant
london@metronews.ca



Nic (Ngajuana) Latella performs Saturday night at Brennan's Bistro as part of a packed local bill. HANDOUT

Nic (Ngajuana) Latella, has been rapping for years.

"When I started taking the bus to school, there was this older kid who beat-boxed and rapped. He would bully me into beat-boxing for him and I guess it stuck," Latella said.

"It became a habit to me, like most people would whistle."

Now Latella is one of the most established hip-hop artists in London. He is a regular in the scene, opening for acts like Polaris nominee Cadence Weapon.

On Saturday night, Latella will perform at Brennan's Bistro, opening for Toronto act Muneshine.

Also on the bill are local artists Soundminds and Moore & Exit Only, showcasing the talent London has to offer.

"I think the London hip-hop scene is quietly thriving," said Latella.

"Every time it starts to make noise or be on the break of becoming recognized, we seem to be faced with a new challenge. We lost venues, places like The Wick and The Embassy that were both huge to the development of the local hip-hop scene, and now APK Live.

"But the setbacks haven't dampened the enthusiasm of rappers in the city."

This show is no exception. Originally slated to be at APK Live, when the venue closed it looked like it might not happen. But the show's promoter, Joe Allen of Routine Records, and Half a Dino booker Matt Trocchi teamed up to find a new space, settling on Brennan's Bistro, located next door to Grooves Records at 347 Clarence St.

Latella says his influences aren't limited to one particular style or genre. His focus is more on writing, using rap as a form of expression.

"I think my trademark is blunt honesty," said Latella. "I tend to use hip-hop as my diary. People relate to it because I am not pulling punches about myself."

It's reality rap, Latella said, and Saturday's show will be full of it.

"You'll get a night of real music and nothing but — this is truly down to earth hip hop," Latella said.

Advanced tickets for Saturday's show are $8, available at Grooves. Tickets are $10 at the door. Music starts at 9:30 p.m.

Around town

- **Art.** Local artist James Kirkpatrick is hosting an artist talk Thursday night at the Michael Gibson Gallery. Kirkpatrick will be speaking about his current exhibit, Pop n' Chips, featuring sound sculptures on display at the downtown gallery. The talk starts at 7 p.m.
- **Music.** Daniel Romano is playing a free show Friday night at Nite Owl. The country musician, formerly of Attack in Black, will be joined by his band The Trilliums. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Delusions of Grandeur.
Sasseville's show hits Blip following ABC rejection

Sasseville in his Blip show Delusions of Grandeur. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jake Sasseville had it all planned out: He'd been working for a year on a TV show based on his life, and he was going to get it on the air in a unique fashion — by buying network time.

He purchased eight 30-minute blocks on ABC Family to launch Delusions of Grandeur. It was set to debut Oct. 4 at 1 a.m. EDT, but the network pulled it two weeks before the air-date, Sasseville said.

"I got a ton of emails from the legal team who all of a sudden chose ... that the show was not going to air," the 26-year-old said of the show, which has now found a home on Blip, a website for original series. "And this was after I paid for the time."

ABC Family, which is owned by Disney, said in a statement that Sasseville's show didn't air "because it did not meet our standards for programming for time buy purchases." The network didn't provide details. He did receive a refund, however.

Sasseville was using the time buy and paid programming format, where the purchaser buys airtime and gets sponsors, but the network retains control. He used the format for The Edge With Jake Sasseville in 2008, which aired on ABC affiliates following Jimmy Kimmel Live, and for Late Night Republic, which aired on MyNetworkTV and Fox stations from August 2010 to October 2011.

He said he funded both programs through sponsorships with Overstock.com, Ford Motor Co., Microsoft Corp. and others.

Delusions of Grandeur, a loosely scripted comedy about the actor-comedian's life and his successes and failures in the TV industry, debuted Oct. 3 on Blip. So far, four 30-minute episodes have aired, and it returns Tuesday after its mid-season break.

He was also able to retain his advertisers, including State Farm insurance company, once his show got the boot from ABC.

Sasseville is producing the series through his production company, City of Sass. He also has a new book, Slightly Famous, published by City of Sass Print.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alec sharpens Claus for edgy festive role

Rise of the Guardians.
Baldwin voices an alternate Santa covered in tattoos for new animated film

OLIVIA MORROW
Metro World News in New York

Alec Baldwin is widely recognized for the huge variety of roles he's played throughout his long, successful career, but you might not have expected him to tackle his latest character in the Dreamworks animated film, Rise of the Guardians.

Baldwin gives voice to an unconventional Santa Claus, with a thick, brutish accent and arms full of tattoos. One of the film's producers, Christina Steinberg, puts it perfectly: "Who's more naughty and nice than Alec?"

Although Baldwin has voiced numerous characters in past films — including Madagascar 2 and Cats & Dogs — you'd expect that children's films wouldn't be of much appeal considering his only daughter is now a teenager.

"I think that people all say that they want to ... do this children's programming for your kids," he says. "My daughter is 17 now, my daughter is watching God-knows-what.

"It's kind of frightening, but I think that when they showed me that these were going to be edgier versions of these characters — when you see the Santa Claus figure it's usually ... a rosy-cheeked, saintly man with not a lot of dimension — (it) was a lot more real, so I loved that."

Baldwin talked about his personal beliefs regarding Santa Claus when he was a child and how he discovered it was all a myth: "I walked into a room and my sister was wrapping presents with my mother and I was like, 'Wait, what?'" he explains.

"I think they only told me because the more kids my mother had, the more wrapping they had to do. I immediately became enlisted as a wrapper."

But just what was it like for Baldwin to play the legendary character?

"The key with these kinds of films is to work your way toward a much warmer kind of humanistic place, literally in your voice. ... The thing for me is to try to vary the tone. ... You want to try to keep it warm, there's a great deal of love and warmth in the piece, (but) there's always a chance to make it really, really bombastic, especially with the Santa Claus character.

"There's a chance to make it very strident. The guy is very, very powerful in some scenes — but in other scenes you want to make it silly and fun and child-friendly."

Alec Baldwin gives a new voice to Santa Claus. GETTY IMAGE

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Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan regrets nothing, could be facing more jail time

Lindsay Lohan has no regrets, she insists, despite the legal and family problems that have plagued her and impacted her career.

"I want to be known as an actress, not a troubled starlet," Lohan tells Us Weekly during a lengthy sit-down interview.

"(I regret) nothing, because then I wouldn't have been able to cry in scenes at the drop of a hat. I have a tattoo, Live without regrets. I'm not saying I wanted to go to a jail cell, but I've drawn from it."

Well, she might have even more to draw from soon.

It looks like she'll have her probation revoked for lying to police after a summer fender-bender, according to TMZ, and that could lead to more jail time for Lohan.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Rihanna finally makes appearance on 777-tour

THE WORD
Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Rihanna's 777 Tour has taken its toll on journalists and fans who followed the star around the globe.

After a week, their frustration exploded. Constant delays and lack of sleep (those on board had to crash whenever and wherever they had a chance: on coaches, on board the plane or on a floor) and not knowing when the next opportunity to eat and drink would materialize, are circumstances most would endure with joy — if only the main subject of the whole trip would show herself offstage.

After mounting criticism spread like a wildfire online — that's the risk you take when you invite 150 journalists — Rihanna yesterday showed herself on the plane.

Wearing dark sunglasses, she appeared 10 minutes before the plane was due to land after the last leg. She even came close to offering an apology.

"I didn't get to spend as much time as I'd originally planned with you guys. I think you are tired as well, but I wanna now improve so I'm gonna come and sit here with you guys. And thank you everybody for making this trip the s—t," she told the journalists.

What was the hardest part of the tour?
The hardest part? I guess trying to balance being a hostess and a performer. I'm supposed to do my show and then shut the f—k up until the next show. Because the two hours we have to fly that's when I can sleep, but I really wanted to hang out and interact with everybody and give everybody my time. So I guess that was difficult.

Rihanna, can you sum up the tour for us?
Rock and roll, true friends, press who really want to know the dirt, rarely got any dirt cause I had to be good. I had to be good this time. We would have had a 333 tour if I wasn't good. I wouldn't have lasted. I still sound like s—t right now, but tonight is the last s—t so we are going all the way. No mercy, that's what I mean. I'm gonna put all my energy into this one show.

Twitter

@tyrabanks
Remember ladies: U don't need a KING to be a QUEEN!

@Pink
Wait til ya'll see how much weight I can gain in one meal

@ElizabethHurley
How many of my female followers wear skirts/dresses by day? Press events aside, I wear jeans or pants every day without exception #curious

@SarahKSilverman
Trying to feel okay about picking up my tofurky thanksgiving meal for 1

Justin Bieber

Oprah dishes out dating advice for Justin Bieber

While Justin Bieber may still be making attempts to win back ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, at least one influential personality thinks he should cool it — and maybe revise his previously stated plans to be married by 25, too.

"I think 25 is too young, actually, I really do — particularly for you," Oprah Winfrey told Bieber during a one-on-one interview with the superstar.

"Your whole 20s is about discovering who you really are. You owe that to yourself, particularly because of the business that you're in (where there's) not a lot of self-discovery time because so much is already defined for you."

In other news, prosecutors decided not to file any charges against Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theatre last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

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A la mode in many ways: The black short-sleeved dress from H&M ($49.95) on the left is seen accompanied respectively by a Vince fur vest from Holt Renfrew ($1,975), grey cardigan from Topshop at the Bay ($100) and a black jacket with faux-leather sleeves from Dynamite ($49.90). AARON VINCENT ELKAIM / THE CANADIAN PRESS

A dress fit for four fêtes

Deck the holidays. No need to break the bank on several new outfits as you navigate the social circuit this season

Whether you're heading to cocktails, the office bash or a family gathering, a few fashionable additions can add some oomph to your festive wardrobe.

"As much as we know that we've got lots of different parties on our calendar for the holidays, we don't always have to necessarily buy four different outfits," said Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine. "It's all about how you style one main piece."

THE STAPLE PIECE

Cyboran said the little black dress is the wardrobe essential for any holiday look. That's likely music to the ears of cost-conscious fashionistas who may already have an LBD tucked away in their closet or are able to scout out a new, affordable option.

The seemingly season-less style staple has a chameleon-like ability to transform from upscale chic to laid back casual.

Selecting the right style with its own intricate details such as pleating, embellished sleeves and a flattering silhouette can ensure it can work as a stand-alone garment, Cyboran noted.

Going for glam

Looking to add a little luxe to your holiday look? Cyboran said teaming your dress with a faux fur topper along with some shimmering sequined booties can instantly infuse a glam touch.

Bling it on

Trying to select several eye-catching add-ons to amp up your party attire?

- **Step in style.** In the case of those seeking a little lift, Julia Cyboran said the pointy-toed pump that dominated the fashion runways is emerging as a standout on the market.
- **In the bag.** Cyboran said the solid, structured pillbox clutch will remain a style standout for the holidays, but expect to see envelope clutches in the hands of women heading out on the town.
- **Making a statement.** Bigger is better when it comes to statement jewelry, with large-scale earrings and necklaces among the holiday accessory offerings. While rose gold hit the market last spring, Cyboran said it started to surface a little last winter in watches, belts and earrings, as did chocolate-coloured gold, and both colours have remained a part of the accessory landscape.

Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine, selected this black-and-gold clutch from BCBG ($190), and Envelope clutch from Forever 21 ($19.80) to highlight the season's key trends. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Comfort casual

Heading to cottage country or settling in at home for a more low-key holiday celebration? Cyboran suggests taking a robust, comfy warm knit worn with a belt over the dress, along with a pair of slouchy, low-cut boots for a more casual ensemble.

Office party chic

If you're pressed for time and need to make a wardrobe quick-change for the office shindig, Cyboran said a blazer with faux leather detailing partnered with a pair of pumps can easily help translate your outfit for after-hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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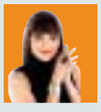

JEANNE SPACE
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Three big holiday decor trends

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Each year we see new colours being introduced to Christmas decor, as if the ornaments we use every year won't suffice.

Holiday decor usually follows suit with fashion or home decor, and this year it's easier than ever to update your holiday decorations and have a trend-setting home for the holidays.

Consider taking a few good holiday standards and adding a twist in order to make your home trend-worthy this year.

Use old ornaments

Colour block old ornaments into a concentrated area — display in a crystal bowl, use on a staircase garland, string on a garland across a window, decorate a spare room or donate to a local shelter. Do this three to four weeks before the holidays to give them time to enjoy.

Glitter Wreath: Mixing gold and silver is all of a sudden OK for holiday decorating this year. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

Glam with rustic

We've always been told never to mix the precious metals when decorating — mixing silver and gold has always been a faux pas. Silver has topped the list for sometime now. This year, we are taking the warm and cool metal tones and blending them to help create a more humble look. Using them in a rich, formal setting would be too much formality. Using them in a farmhouse or rustic setting helps add understated glam to a space.

Got some outdated trend colours from years past? Group them together and display in a guest room. SUPPLIED

Add a Punch

Wake up the predictable red-gold-green colour combination by adding a shot of cobalt blue or black to the room, it will give the colour scheme a sense of importance with the shot of darkness. A lot of dark brown entered Christmas decor a few years ago, stemming from the trends in home decor furniture. The brown feels a bit predictable, but when mixed with warm gold and a shot of fuchsia or purple, it can take us back to retro-Halston '70s.

Blown glass ornament: Grey ornaments help to create a sophisticated, cool vibe. URBANBARN.COM

Shades of Grey

Various neutral colours come and go in holiday decor — there's been taupe, black, sage and the ever popular cream colours. This year, look to inject a bit of inspiration coming from fashion. Grey is the new neutral and helps to make our homes take on a cool air of sophistication during the holidays. Team it with fresh greens, golds and citron for a punchy holiday decor. I suggest using this colour as an accent so not to over spend. Grey is the hot neutral this year, but most likely will not have longevity.

EDIT BY JEANNE BEKER

The Holiday Sale

A collection of must-have items hand-picked by Jeanne Beker

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Don’t be fooled — not all doughnuts are created equal

Lemon doughnuts generally involve fried dough filled with sticky, tart-sweet yellow goo that tastes more of sugar than of serious lemon.

So here is a way to truly reinvent the lemon doughnut as a baked treat that is at once lighter and more deliciously lemony.

All you have to do is start with a golden cake-style baked doughnut, which is then flecked with the potent flavour of real lemon zest. You finish by topping the doughnuts with a simple powdered sugar-lemon juice glaze. The result is wonderful.

1. Heat the oven to 425 F.

2. Coat 2 doughnut pans with baking spray; you can use pans designed for either large or small doughnuts. A mini doughnut pan will bake more quickly.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, oil, packed brown sugar, granulated sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, vanilla extract and lemon zest. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions.

4. Stir in half the flour followed by half the buttermilk, then the remaining flour and finally the remaining buttermilk.

5. Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, filling the doughnut wells to about 1/4 inch from the top. If using a mini doughnut pan, you will need to bake in multiple batches.

6. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden and cooked through. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack.

7. To make the glaze, simply stir together the lemon juice and powdered sugar. Dip the tops of the doughnuts in the glaze and allow them to set or enjoy immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

12 portions
Start to finish: 45 minutes

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup powdered sugar

Baked Lemon Doughnuts

These delicious doughnuts are baked. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

Pick up, munch and repeat

Forget the fork and spoon, because the 100 desserts in Abigail Johnson Dodge’s Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets can be devoured without. Dodge whisks together step-by-step baking instructions for a sweet-shop sampler of treats. No-fail recipes for sugary delights (along with delicious drizzles and favourite toppings) abound in this collection. Among the portable treats in Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets are Triple Threat Chocolate Squares, Toasted Coconut Snowball Cupcakes, Cinnamon Toast Scones, Frozen Chocolate Papaya Wedges and more.
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The new Boxing Day?

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are taking Canadians by storm

Material world. When it comes to these American shopping days, Canadians are catching up — and they want tech, tech and more tech

Black Friday and Cyber Monday move north of the border?

Ask anyone in Canada about the biggest shopping day of the year and time and time again they'll tell you it's Boxing Day. If you ask the same question to our friends south of the border, they'll tell you it's Black Friday and/or Cyber Monday.

Black Friday falls on the day following U.S. Thanksgiving and it offers shoppers promotional sales that help kick off the shopping season — it falls on Nov. 23 this year. Americans also participate in Cyber Monday to take advantage of exclusive online deals — it falls on Nov 26 this year.

Canadians expect deals on Black Friday

With such good deals, it's no wonder that Black Friday and Cyber Monday are taking Canadians by storm.

According to a recent survey by Staples Canada and Vision Critical, 84 per cent of Canadians now know about Black Friday and 48 per cent of Canadians now know about Cyber Monday. And, in fact, 60 per cent of Canadians now expect to get deals as good as they would get on Boxing Day on Black Friday and Cyber Monday as well.

More Canadians plan to shop on Black Friday

Though only 17 per cent of Canadians have shopped these days in previous years, 40 per cent say that they intend to shop on Black Friday and/ or Cyber Monday this year.

After breaking these numbers down by gender, 42 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women are planning to shop on Black Friday and Cyber Monday this year.

They Want More Tech

So what will they be spending their money on? The answer is tech products. More than half of Canadians who are planning to shop want to get the best prices on tech. In fact, a whopping 63 per cent plan to spend their hard earned money on technology, and of that number, 33 per cent plan to buy desktops, laptops and ultra-books, 29 per cent want to buy tablets and e-Readers, 28 per cent plan to purchase monitors and TVs, 20 per cent are looking at cameras and camcorders, 18 per cent want mobile and mobile accessories and 18 per cent want to buy video games. When Canadians were asked what products they were most interested in seeing, offers for, desktops, laptops and ultra-books were their top choice. **NEWS CANADA**

Border crossing

In trying to keep Canadian shoppers on this side of the border, many retailers are slashing prices on Nov. 30 for our own Black Friday. However, a recent poll shows that one in 10 Canadians will be making the trip. If you're one of them, here's what you need to know: As of June 1, the duty-free exemptions for Canadians returning from trips abroad increased to $200 from $50 for a 24-hour stay. For 48 hours away or more, the limit was increased to $800 per person, up from $400. **METRO**

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Black Friday madness may cost you your sanity: Is it worth all the hype?

Shop till you drop. Each year, more Canadians join the melee and flock to the States for the shopping extravaganza, and this time round The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us will join in north of the border

KATHY ULLYOTT
life@metronews.ca

Do you want to shop in this? Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days in the U.S. and it's getting more popular in Canada with major retail stores joining in and offering bargains. GETTY IMAGES

Stampedes. Pepper-spray attacks on fellow shoppers. Store employees trampled, crushed and even killed.

Accounts of mall mayhem on Black Friday — the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S., when merchants offer deep discounts on everything from skis to sandwich grills — have become part of retail lore. And although such incidents are rare, midnight store openings, across-the-parking-lot lineups and unbelievable deals have become as iconic of American Thanksgiving as pumpkin pie and pilgrim outfits.

Each year, more Canadians join the Black Friday fray — the moniker reflects the fact that it puts retailers "in the black" for the year. Statistics Canada says 4.2 million Canadians travelled to the U.S. last November, presumably to shop. This year, stores in Canada, including The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us are all trumpeting Black Friday specials.

Still, Sally Ritchie, vice president of communications and marketing for the Retail Council of Canada says Canadians aren't entranced with cross-border door-busting. "Our polling data shows that only six per cent of people in British Columbia and five per cent of Ontarians plan to travel to the U.S. for Black Friday," Ritchie says; 94 per cent of Canadians will be staying put.

So for most Canadians, it seems, the question isn't, "Where does the line start?," but, "What the heck?"

Well, obviously, there are the deals. "It can be thrilling to get a key item for a really good price," says Sarah Kutulakos, an American now living in Canada. "And there's the social aspect, the ritual. You have Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, then you all get up early on Friday to go shopping." (Note: Kutulakos admits she doesn't go in for lining up herself.)

But more subtle psychology may be at work as well. Aparna Labroo, a consumer psychologist and the Patricia C. Ellison Professor of Marketing at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, points out that people want things more when they appear scarce. Deep discounts, offering those savings for a limited time and making only a few of those products available (to, say, the first 100 customers) are all ways retailers "manipulate scarcity cues" — in other words, motivate consumers.

Enough to pitch a tent in an overnight lineup? Maybe. "People actually infer value (of a product) from the effort they put into getting that product," says Labroo.

In other words, having to line up is — for some shoppers — not only not a deterrent, it's proof that what they want is worth lining up for. "The many people present, all waiting, can heighten the sense of scarcity."

And, apparently, the need for a $38 Blu-ray player.

Black Friday facts

- **Camping out.** Last year, a couple in Florida camped out on the sidewalk in front of a Best Buy for 12 days in order to be the first in line for Black Friday sales.
- **Buy Nothing Day.** Twenty years ago, Buy Nothing Day was created as an anti-consumerism alternative to Black Friday.
- **Holiday cheer?** Ninety per cent of Black Friday shoppers will be buying goods for themselves.
- **Online.** Sixteen per cent of Canadians will buy goods online from U.S. retailers on Black Friday.
- **Cyber Monday.** The term has become an international marketing term used by online retailers in the U.K., Portugal, Germany and Chile.
- **Turnout.** The National Retail Federation anticipates 134 million people will hit the stores this Thanksgiving weekend.

Decided to risk a Black Friday spree? Stay safe out there!

The Black Friday shopper's emergency first-aid kit

- **Rolls of gauze.** Extremely compact and light, yet strong enough to tie your trunk down, or a 42-inch television to the top of your car.
- **Adhesive bandages.** For credit-card blisters or paper cuts from coupons and flyers.
- **Finger splints.** Entering your debit-card PIN repeatedly can cause carpal tunnel syndrome.
- **Caffeine pills.** Sure, there might be a Tim's close enough for an emergency run, but do you really want to risk your place in line?
- **Acetaminophen.** Even if you're not headache-prone, loudspeaker announcements and other shoppers yelling at their kids/into their phones/at line-cutters can take a toll.
- **Scotch in a hip flask.** In case all else fails.

Want the deals without the lines? Cyber Monday is a stressless alternative. And with a smartphone, you don't need to be at a computer, or even at home, you can do your shopping on your morning commute. A few great apps:

- **Black Friday Shopping (blackfriday.com, free):** Get breaking Black-Friday ads, link directly to 1,200 top retailers and get cash-back coupons
- **My Christmas List (99 cents):** Plan gifts for everybody on your list; set and stick to a budget; keep track of spending; compare prices and share your lists
- **Price Check Guru (free):** Enter any item to find the lowest online price and connect directly to that retailer to buy
- **PayPal (free):** Get pay for your purchases immediately without having to enter your credit card info every time.

If you want to get out there and shop till you drop, best that you get the lowdown on survival. GETTY IMAGES

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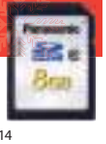

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On your mark, get set, go ... wild

But use good judgment while you're at it.

Don't get caught in the frenzy and spend money erratically just because you find discounts

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuff

It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favourite stores to stay focused."

Keep your receipts

You will make impulse buys that you regret — it's part of the day. "Keep a zippered pouch in your purse to keep your designated Black Friday receipts," advises Holmes. "You don't want to misplace any — you're buying a lot of stuff, you're excited and when you get home you may realize you don't want all of it."

Bum a ride

"I'm a big advocate for carpooling," says Holmes. "Go with your shopping buddies and you can save a parking space and gas, which is a hot commodity right now." Not to mention, it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a thing that happens.

Cross-check for online deals

Some deals, such as doorbusters, are strictly in-store offers. But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone — sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

Don't fake being an early bird

Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for your favourite store's doors to open isn't your idea of fun, sleep in and skip the door-buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Gift-list assist

Before you make your list and check it twice, head on over to Gifts.com and take the gift personality quiz. It can help you figure out what to buy for your picky fashionista sister before you melt down at the Cinnabon stand.

Black Friday should be a silly and fun way to kick off the holiday season. Don't overdo it. ISTOCK IMAGE

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NHLPA submits offer but sides 'still far apart'

Lockout. Union moves toward league in revenue sharing as talks resume in New York

The NHL and NHL Players' Association finally seem to be speaking the same language, but they still have a gap to bridge in negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement.

The union tabled a comprehensive proposal Wednesday that generated a tepid response from the NHL. However, commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledged the six-page offer was a step in the right direction and the document appeared to offer a path forward in talks, with the sides now envisioning the same type of economic system.

"There was some movement in our direction and it was appreciated," said Bettman. "We're still far apart. But hopefully there's some momentum so we can bring this to a conclusion."

The union proposed a 50-50 split of revenues during the five-year deal along with $393 million US in deferred make-whole payments throughout. Two weeks ago, the league offered $211 million and a 50-50 split.

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr acknowledged that his constituents are anxious to end the lockout and indicated that the new offer is "about as good" as the players are willing to make.

"(The players) are suffering right along with the fans," said Fehr. "We made an enormous move in the owners' direction to try and end it — at least as of today that hasn't been successful."

Until now, the union had been pushing for a system that would see players paid a fixed amount of revenue each season rather than receiving a percentage of it. However, the new offer included some safeguards to ensure they'd be protected in the event league revenues stalled, including a clause that states the players' share can't drop from year to year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yet to be resolved

Contracts could still be sticking point

There is also ground to cover on contract issues.

The NHLPA offer included a rule that would punish teams who sign players to long-term, back-diving contracts — something the league has identified as an important issue. It also called for players making more than $1 million US in the minors to have their salary count against the cap.

The union chose not adopt the NHL's proposed changes to unrestricted free agency, entry-level deals and salary arbitration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos coach doesn't want players to score ... until game day

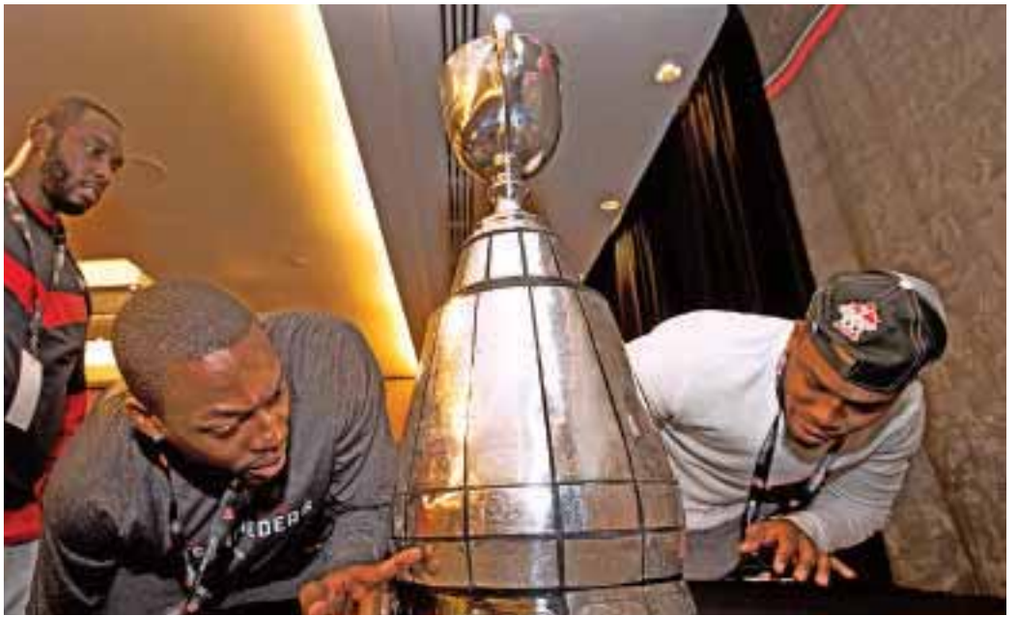
Scott Milanovich wants the Toronto Argonauts to control their libido during Grey Cup week.

The Argos rookie head coach says he doesn't want his players scoring off the field prior to the big game. Toronto takes on the Calgary Stampeders for the CFL championship Sunday at Rogers Centre.

But he also has a personal reason for taking this approach.

"I have two young daughters at home right now that are probably watching this press conference, so my take on it is going to be 'I believe in abstinence,'" Milanovich said Wednesday, answering what has become the traditional last question of the Grey Cup coaches' news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Stampeders get acquainted with cup

Calgary Stampeders teammates Fred Bennett, left, and Chris Randle have a close look at the Grey Cup during the West Division champions media lunch in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skiing. Alpine Canada looking for ways to include Vonn in men's race

The president of Alpine Canada hasn't given up on Lindsey Vonn racing men at Lake Louise, Alta.

The first time might not be in a World Cup race, though.

Lindsey Vonn GETTY IMAGES FILE

Max Gartner says he's been talking to Vonn's sponsor Red Bull.

"We're working on some plans, but we do hope this will happen down the road," Gartner said. "We do hope it will happen in Lake Louise.

Vonn asked FIS, the world governing body of skiing, if she could race in the men's World Cup downhill and super-G this weekend at Lake Louise. The reigning Olympic champion has 11 World Cup victories and 17 podiums in total.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympics

Trial set for alleged bottle thrower

A man accused of throwing a plastic bottle onto the track seconds before the men's 100-metre final at the London Olympics will go on trial in January.

Ashley Gill-Webb pleaded not guilty at Thames Magistrates Court on Wednesday to using threatening words or behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

The 34-year-old man was granted conditional bail and ordered to stand trial in east London on Jan. 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Buehrle gets in two cents on way out of Miami

Mark Buehrle issued a parting shot at Miami Marlins management after his stay with the team lasted only one tumultuous season.

The left-hander, who signed a four-year contract a year ago, was part of the blockbuster trade that also sent all-star shortstop Jose Reyes, right-hander Josh Johnson and two other players to the Toronto Blue Jays. With the deal, the Marlins pared $146.5 million US in future payroll.

"I'm upset with how things turned out in Miami," Buehrle said in a statement issued Wednesday through his agent, Jeff Berry. "But I'm putting it behind me and looking forward to moving on with my career."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Just like the fans in South Florida, I was lied to on multiple occasions."

New Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle in a statement issued Wednesday

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Grinnell's Jack Taylor goes to the basket during Tuesday's game, in which he scored 138 points, in Grinnell, Iowa. CORY HALL/GRINNELL COLLEGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Sir Jack' talk of hoops world after 138-point game

NCAA. NBAers abuzz after 'video-game'-like outburst in Division III

How did Grinnell's Jack Taylor wind up with 138 points in a game?

Well, he did miss 56 shots, more than he made. And he didn't play for four minutes.

Otherwise he would have scored even more.

As it was, Taylor shattered the NCAA scoring record by 25 points Tuesday in the Pioneers' 179-104 victory over Faith Baptist Bible in Grinnell, Iowa.

Taylor hoisted a mind-boggling 108 shots, one every 20 seconds. Layups, fadeaways and three-pointers (27 of those) were all working in a display that had NBA royalty buzzing.

"It's like a video game," Carmelo Anthony said. "How can you shoot 108 times?"

LeBron James added: "It's unbelievable, honestly. There's two games that I would love to see: One was Wilt, when he had 100, and this kid, I want to see him, too. Sir Jack."

Wilt Chamberlin's record of 100 points scored in 1962 still stands as the NBA mark.

Taylor himself was still trying to catch his breath Wednesday.

"Honestly, it's still not settling in. It was hard to sleep," Taylor told The Associated Press.

Understandably so. Taylor is just a five-foot-10, 170-pound sophomore from Black River Falls, Wis. How did he score more points than anyone in college history?

Well, he had 58 at halftime. And then he scored 30 more in the first nine minutes of the second half, draining seven straight threes at one point.

The Division III record was the first to fall, as Taylor reached 91 points on a 25-footer from the left wing with 11:14 to go. He cracked 100 on a layup less than three minutes later, and with 4:42 to go he drained yet another three to pass the NCAA record of 113 set by Rio Grande's Bevo Francis against Hillsdale in 1954.

Taylor made 27 of 71 three-pointers and was 52 of 108 overall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record-setting system

The three-pointer is the shot of choice at Grinnell and the four guys who don't shoot crash the boards.

- The Pioneers also press relentlessly on defence, forcing turnovers and quicker shots from opponents.
- The style also demands fresh legs and the Pioneers typically substitute every 60 seconds of so.

NBA

L.A. acting job costs Evans $5K

Brooklyn Nets forward Reggie Evans has become the first player to be fined for flopping by the NBA, penalized $5,000 US for a second offence.

Evans was punished after exaggerating light contact from the Lakers' Metta World Peace in Los Angeles on Tuesday night, nearly crashing into a referee standing along the sideline a few feet away.

Evans had received a warning for going down with little or no contact while battling for a rebound against Boston on Nov. 15.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nets forward Reggie Evans GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Flattery will come easily to you today but you must use it with care. Your way with words may be able to win others over to your side but do you really want everyone knowing what you are up to? Think about it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you need to connect with someone you have drifted apart from recently, now is the time to make your move. Don't wait for them to approach you, pick up the phone or knock on their door and say "Hi!"

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have been worrying for no good reason and what takes place over the next few days will remind you just how fortunate you truly are. Once your mind is in a better place, your physical health will improve as well.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Use your imagination and follow your dream, wherever it might lead. Some people may say you have taken leave of your senses, but more likely the opposite is true: You have at last found your true calling.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The Sun in Sagittarius gives you bags of self-confidence and you must use it today to help a loved one or friend get over some kind of loss or trauma. The best way to do that is to make them laugh.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't try to keep your feelings to yourself. Let the whole world know why you are so full of love and laughter. Most likely it's because you have finally realized that life is supposed to be enjoyed, not dreaded.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is someone in your life you need to pay a lot more attention to. You know who this someone is and you know it is your responsibility to reach out to them. So what are you waiting for? Do it now.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun may have moved out of your birth sign but today Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves in, which is not a bad swap. Who and what do you truly value? Make sure you don't lose them.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You feel good about yourself now but how do you feel about other people? You may have reason to believe that certain individuals don't deserve your friendship, but why make an issue of it? Forgive, forget and move on.

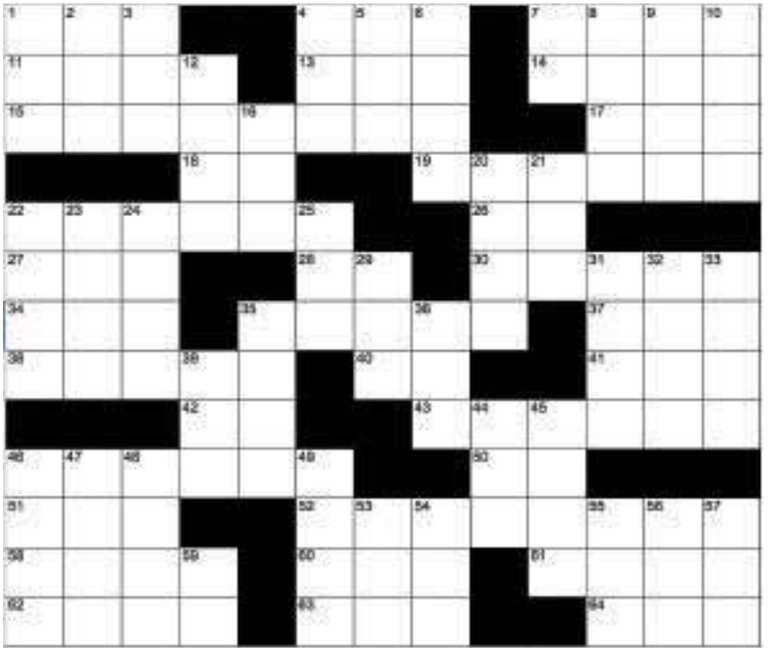
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Give your mind and your body a rest today, and let others do the heavy lifting for a change. Friendships are under excellent stars now, so why not have fun with your friends? Laughter is always the best medicine.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Someone will ask you for advice today and you will be happy to give it, but do they really want to know the truth? If what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear, it could cause a falling out.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Steer clear of subjects and situations that could lead to conflict. That is especially important on the work front where, if you speak your mind, you could make a powerful enemy. Not everyone wants to hear the truth. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

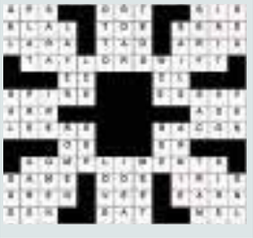
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Children's game
4. Decide on
7. Rich tasty dinner
11. Small inlets
13. Prefix meaning recent
14. Roof gutter
15. Spat
17. Cat or dog
18. Egyptian Sun God
19. Cattle
22. Moves slightly
26. Bible pt.
27. Danson of Cheers
28. Mate for Ma
30. Highway exits
34. Spanish cheer
35. AM or FM instrument
37. Served at Archie Bunker's Place
38. Fridge maker
40. Type measure
41. Meadow
42. Roman two
43. Basement
46. Fashion designer McCartney
50. First two vowels in a sequence
51. Blue Bloods actor Selleck
52. Microbes
58. Ticklish muppet
60. Pitcher's stat.
61. Vampire novelist: Anne —
62. Cruel or nasty
63. Served with crumpets
64. Actor James Van — Beek

Down
1. — la la
2. Atmosphere
3. Joke
4. — Tree Hill
5. Writing implement
6. Children
7. Wind direction (abbr.)
8. Pre-record
9. For always
10. Dampens
12. Ride the waves
16. Gymnastics equipment
20. Bull
21. Airport info.
22. Portico
23. Rudder
24. Brainstorm
25. Health club
29. Summer refreshment
31. Teen hangout
32. Beg
33. Brand
35. Method of transport
36. Company abbr.
39. Nothing
44. Sit down to a meal
45. Ogle
46. Flower part
47. Entice
48. Stone or Watson
49. Help in a robbery
53. — You Afraid of the Dark?
54. Canadian Automobile Association (abbr.)
55. Toss out
56. Drink cooler
57. — Lingus
59. "— Golden Pond"

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		4	6			1	9	
7						5		3
	6			8				7
	5				9	2		
			2		7			
		7	3				8	
3				9			1	
5		9						4
	7	8			1	9		

Yesterday's Sudoku

Today 14°/1° Sunny
Friday 8°/-2° Showers 40%
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We're here	to give you free	fiery design pointers.	Get sizzling	hot design ideas,
glowing décor inspiration	and red-hot hints	for your current	or future home.	Add some spice
and punch to your	colour palette	at this	design	workshop
hosted in	one of our	rosy new homes	with devilishly	decadent upgrades.
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